

UK: FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM UNIQUE I-CEILINGS INSTALL

Hidden attractions

Financed by the education and social services department of Northamptonshire County Council, the Pen Green Centre for under-fives and families in Corby is a centre of excellence for high-quality early years education and care, together with education and training for parents. Comprising a flagship 200-seat lecture theatre, seminar rooms and catering facilities, the Centre features hi-tech innovations throughout its building spec.

In providing AV facilities for up to 200 delegates, high-quality voice and foreground music reproduction was deemed to be

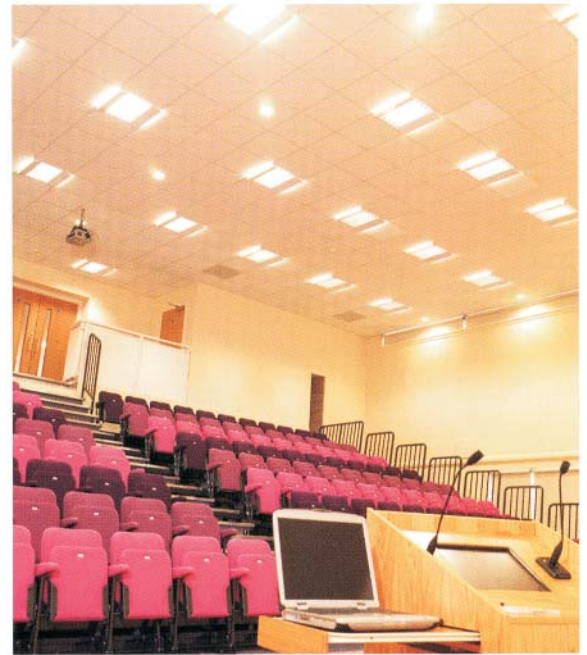
essential, as was the requirement for even sound coverage over the banked seating area. Integrating eight Armstrong i-ceilings Pro Panel loudspeakers into the ceiling plane provided an elegant audio solution, while maintaining the clean, simple lines of the room – the discreet combination of i-ceilings sound systems with Armstrong ceiling tiles provides a seamless finish to an environment where holes in ceilings and black-box speakers are undesirable.

Complementing the i-ceilings sound system is a range of other AV equipment installed by Northampton-based Audio Visual

An AMX touchpanel has been built into the custom-designed lectern to offer remote control of all room functions

Specialists. Electronic slide projection comes courtesy of a Elmo EV35 supplied by Audio Video Material, projecting on to a 16ft x 12ft screen. Multi-region DVD and VHS players provide alternative sources, while standing to one side of the screen is an electronic visualiser for acetates, solid objects and the like, removing the need for a conventional OHP device.

An AV-designed and Pendax-built lectern, which has two



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spring-out side trays to accommodate two laptops, is also part of the make-up. Built into this is a 15in AMX touchscreen capable of showing any graphics or video image that may be displayed simultaneously on the room's big screen. The touchpanel is connected to an AMX processor which allows control of the projector, room lighting, blinds and all source switching.

As well as the lecture theatre, i-ceilings have also been installed in some of the Centre's other areas

To comply with European legislation, the Pen Green centre also boasts an induction loop amp for the hard of hearing.

Bob Catterall of Audio Visual Specialists says: "It was a challenging installation for us as the space was somewhat limited, but we're very happy with the results. The i-ceilings Pro Panels provide quality sound without being seen, and the rest of the equipment has been designed to be very straightforward for the end user."

Following the success of Pen Green, Britain's Department for

Education and Skills (DfES) has decided to fund the building of a regional leadership centre to provide complete training, research and advisory services throughout the region – a clear case of a properly applied AV solution leading to further projects in the same sector. *BEN ROSSER*

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